CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A physical layer for an inline power device of a network power system, the physical layer comprising:

an inline power control signal source, wherein the inline power control signal indicates when to apply power to a port when there is no power applied to the port and when to remove power from the port when there is power applied to the port.

2. A power source equipment of a network power system, the power source equipment comprising:

at least one physical layer comprising:

an inline power control signal source, wherein the inline power control signal indicates when to apply power to a port when there is no power applied to the port and when to remove power from the port when there is power applied to the port.

3. The power source equipment as defined in claim 2, further comprising signal processing of the inline power control signal, wherein the signal processing is external to the at least one physical layer.

4. A method of inline power for a network power system, the method comprising:

sourcing an inline power control signal from a physical layer, wherein the inline power control signal indicates when to apply power to a port when there is no power applied to the port and when to remove power from the port when there is power applied to the port.

5. An apparatus for inline power for a network power system, the apparatus comprising:

a physical layer; and

means for sourcing an inline power control signal from the physical layer, wherein the inline power control signal indicates when to apply power to a port when there is no power applied to the port and when to remove power from the port when there is power applied to the port.

6. A physical layer for an inline power device of a network power system, the physical layer comprising:

an inline power control signal source, wherein the inline power control signal determines when to apply power to a port when there is no power applied to the port and when to remove power from the port when there is power applied to the port.

7. A power source equipment of a network power system, the power source equipment comprising:

at least one physical layer comprising:

an inline power control signal source, wherein the inline power control signal determines when to apply power to a port when there is no power applied to the port and when to remove power from the port when there is power applied to the port..

8. The power source equipment as defined in claim 7, further comprising signal processing of the inline power control signal, wherein the signal processing is external to the at least one physical layer.

9. A method of inline power for a network power system, the method comprising:

sourcing an inline power control signal from a physical layer, wherein the inline power control signal determines when to apply power to a port when there is no power applied to the port and when to remove power from the port when there is power applied to the port.

10. An apparatus for inline power for a network power system, the apparatus comprising:

a physical layer; and

means for sourcing an inline power control signal from the physical layer, wherein the inline power control signal determines when to apply power to a port when there is no power applied to the port and when to remove power from the port when there is power applied to the port.

11. A network switch for a network power system, the switch comprising:

at least one physical layer comprising:

an inline power control signal source, wherein the inline power control signal determines when to apply power to a port when there is no power applied to the port and when to remove power from the port when there is power applied to the port.

12. The switch as defined in claim 11, further comprising signal processing of the inline power control signal, wherein the signal processing is external to the at least one physical layer.